

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE FRANK TEJEDA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable FRANK TEJEDA, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write to notify you formally pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that a member of my staff has been served with a subpoena issued by the District Court of the State of Texas. After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

FRANK TEJEDA,
Member of Congress.

FAITH IN CONGRESS RESTORED

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, for the past 3 weeks, I have been traveling around my district and the one message my constituents relayed was by keeping our promises through the Contract With America, the Republican majority is working to restore the long, lost faith the American people have in Congress.

This message is clearly reflected in the recent Wall Street Journal poll. For the first time in this poll's history, a majority of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing. In fact, just last September, this same poll showed two-thirds of the American people disapproving of the liberal Democrat Congress that preceded us.

Mr. Speaker, the message is ringing loud and clear: The Republican majority has led to a different Congress. Through hard work we have proved that politicians can keep their promises. My constituents tell me they like what they see, and I will continue to make sure that we stay on the same track and keep our promises.

Mr. Speaker, I include the Wall Street Journal poll for the RECORD.

[From the Wall Street Journal, April 28, 1995]

WASHINGTON WIRE—A SPECIAL WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL'S CAPITAL BUREAU

(By Ronald G. Shafer)

Clinton shows renewed political muscle in the Oklahoma City aftermath.

Buoyed at least temporarily by his handling of the bombing, he edges Dole in a 1996 matchup in a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, a reversal from recent surveys. He is preferred handily over Gramm or Wilson. The gap over Dole widens slightly when Perot or Powell are added as independents; they cut into GOP support more than Democratic.

Clinton scraps plans to discuss Russia in a Sunday speech. Instead he will highlight two perceived policy strengths by linking his new

crusade against terrorism and longstanding efforts toward Mideast peace. On Monday, he will help kick off a \$10 million drive by Emily's List, a women's political group, to get Democratic women to the polls in 1996.

Gender gap: In their matchup, Clinton gets a 14-percentage point edge among women, while Dole has an 11-point edge among men.

Dole holds firm as the GOP front-runner as Gramm fails to catch fire.

Dole is favored by 58% of Republicans and strict independents as the GOP presidential hopeful, far ahead of No. 2 Gramm at 14%. If Powell is added as a GOP choice, he surpasses Gramm as second behind Dole. The public shows a strong interest in independent candidates, with over a quarter of those polled picking such alternatives when offered the choice in matchups.

Some GOP social conservatives, disillusioned that Gramm doesn't give more attention to their issues and distrustful of Dole, consider endorsing Buchanan. The Alexander campaign, trying to rub in Gramm's difficulties, sends the Texan's campaign an express package consisting of a life preserver labeled: USS Gramm.

The GOP Congress wins high marks, but backing on issues is shaky.

For the first time ever in the poll, a majority of Americans—47% to 40%—approves of the job Congress is doing; by contrast, two-thirds disapproved last September. House Speaker Gingrich wins 45%-36% approval, reversing previous negative views. The public cites Gingrich's positions on issues as his best attribute—but about as many disagree with his views as agree.

The favorable ratings may temporarily reflect the GOP House's first 100 days, says Democrat Peter Hart, who conducted the poll with Republican Robert Teeter. Americans by 48% to 37% think Republicans will go too far on welfare overhaul. By 47% to 43% they favor government education and training programs to aid inner cities over private initiatives as pushed by the GOP.

Combating street crime and violence is the issue that needs the greatest attention from the federal government, the public says.

Dole's age: While 65% of the public don't think the 71-year-old senator's age would affect his ability to be president, just 18% prefer a candidate from the World War II generation and only 1% think the 70s is the best age for a president. Two in five older Americans feel Dole would be less able to handle the presidency.

Moscow mission: Aides seek ways to promote Clinton's May trip to Russia at a time when relations are cooling. One idea: Clinton writes a letter to leading columnists explaining the bigger issues at stake, like nuclear disarmament. Some 46% of the public approves of his handling of foreign policy, up from 37% last month.

Vietnam revisited: Americans by 70% to 22% think the U.S. made a mistake in sending troops to fight in Vietnam. Those who think so are evenly divided over whether it was a well-intentioned mistake or fundamentally wrong and immoral.

Shaky confidence? Despite a surge of optimism picked up by some other polls, only 24% of those in this survey expect the economy to get better over the next year. That is down sharply from 31% at the end of last year and the lowest reading since October 1993.

Tax overhaul? Yes. Flat tax? Not so fast.

Two-thirds of poll respondents say the current income-tax system is unfair. And 51% back a "complete overhaul," up from 37% last July, a sign that the tax-reform debate resonates with the public. But by a three-to-two margin, the public favors graduated rates to a single flat rate; even self-identified Republicans do so.

Some Clinton aides predict the GOP tax-overhaul push could go the way of the president's health-care plan: Applause for the motives and unceasing complaints from likely losers. The administration tries to attack GOP proposals without appearing to defend the status quo. One possibility: A push for simplification.

The public strongly prefers taxing wage and investment income equally; the GOP favors lower taxes on investment income to encourage saving.

Minor memos: Foul mood: Only 40% of Americans call themselves Major League baseball fans, down sharply from 56% in July before the baseball strike with a big drop among young adults. * * * Was Sen. D'Amato polled? The public by 31% to 25% has a positive view of Simpson trial Judge Lance Ito, while 26% are judiciously neutral.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROBERTS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MFUME addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN HONOR OF SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, former Mississippi Senator John C. Stennis died on April 23 at the age of 93. He retired from the Senate in 1989. In the passage of time, we sometimes forget events and accomplishments, but we will not forget Senator Stennis.

History will record Senator Stennis as one of the great statesmen of the 20th century. He was so well respected in Washington as a southern gentleman and as a man of unquestioned integrity and character. But along with his courtly southern manner, Senator Stennis was an effective leader who was tough when it came to maintaining a strong national defense and in looking out for his native State. Through more than 40 years in the Nation's Capital, his first priority was to put Mississippi first.

The legacy of John Stennis can be seen throughout the State of Mississippi, from the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in the north, to Meridian's Naval Air Station to the Stennis Space Center on the gulf coast. At points in between, he was responsible for bringing Federal funds for water systems and economic development projects that helped improve the lives of his fellow Mississippians.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he felt the United States should always deal from a position of military strength. He worked hard to see that our fighting men and women, both in the active forces and the National Guard and Reserve, had the equipment and training they needed to do the job.

In honor of Senator Stennis' commitment to the military, Ronald Reagan announced during his Presidency that the Navy's next aircraft carrier would be named the U.S.S. John C. Stennis. The ship is undergoing sea trials this spring and summer and will be officially commissioned later this year.

Senator Stennis always called me "his congressman" since I represented his hometown of De Kalb in Kemper County. It was a great honor to serve as his Congressman for 28 years and his colleague for 23. He was a remarkable man whose legacy will live on, here in Washington and in his beloved Mississippi.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SCHROEDER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. GREEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a note of sadness because this is our first full day of being in session, but on April 19, Oklahoma City was awakened by a bomb blast which killed both children and people either working or doing business in the Murrah Federal Building.

Oklahoma City along with the Nation rushed to the help of a neighbor, including some of my constituents from Texas.

The terrorist bomb ripped at the foundation of the Federal building and ripped at the fabric of our society.

The Federal building was targeted for what are now unknown reasons, but at this point there is all sorts of conjec-

ture, but whatever the reason is, some people were killed and injured.

At times, the rhetoric of hate and distrust paints a picture of faceless bureaucrats, but the people in that building were hardworking people and children playing in that day-care center, and there were people literally waiting there for Federal Government services.

Many Americans, not just in Oklahoma but now all over America, do not feel it is safe that we should allow any terrorists to rip our Nation apart.

The terrorists did not affect the way Americans rush to help other Americans when times are tough, though.

□ 1700

When there is an earthquake or flood or any other natural disaster, we have volunteers running to help. This disaster was not natural, but neighbors still were providing a helping hand. Houston firefighters, along with firefighters from around the Nation, flew to Oklahoma City to assist in the rescue and recovery of victims from the blast. Southwestern Bell provided telecommunications and donation of cash assistance. Petrochemical companies from the Houston area provided assistance.

Providing a helping hand in times of need shows that when times are hard for America, we come together. We come together to show that any terrorist group inside or outside America, that Americans will stand together and there is nothing that can stop them.

If that message has done nothing else than to go forth from these halls of Congress, I would hope that the perpetrator and whoever is found guilty, that they recognize that Americans, we do come together, and we stand together on this tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ENSIGN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MINETA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to this week and the importance nationally in focusing on the problem of arson.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, in cooperation with our Oklahoma colleagues, I joined in support of a resolution condemning the action in Oklahoma City and on focusing on the need to further highlight this country's preparedness and ability to deal with explosions and disasters and especially those caused by terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, on May 1 through May 8 is Arson Awareness Week nationwide,

and this week is a time each year that we take out to focus on one particular type of tragedy that occurs on a recurring basis throughout the year.

Unfortunately, in this country we tend to only focus on problems of disasters, when a major disaster occurs, such as the World Trade Center bombing, and most recently the Oklahoma City bombing.

But, Mr. Speaker, arson fires and arson deaths occur every day of the year in this country and are becoming a major problem in terms of both loss of life and property. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, arson annually causes about \$2 billion worth of property loss, and that does not include the amount of extraordinary damage caused by the emotional effects, indirect losses, indirect financial situations, medical and legal costs, lost wages, business interruption, fire fighting and law enforcement efforts which together exceed the direct losses twofold. So, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about arson presenting a problem to our country and our people that exceeds the \$2 billion a year with indirect costs approaching \$4 billion a year.

Arson fires account for only 15 percent of building fires in this country but account for more than 30 percent of total dollar loss. In fact, in a more troubling statistic, Mr. Speaker, arson fires account for more than 700 lives lost each year, 700 lives lost from fires directly caused by arson deliberately set either to cover up a crime, to have some profit motive, to gain money from the insurance company, or some other profit ring that would allow those to gain from the crime of arson.

Arson has disrupted educational and manufacturing systems with the destruction of irreplaceable buildings and artifacts. In addition, it has rendered natural resources useless for long periods of time or completely destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, there is some good news. The insurance industry is beginning to crack down on arson as never before. One way they are doing this is by reporting information on suspicious fires to the property insurance loss register, a national data base which police, law enforcement and fire officials use to investigate fires and prosecute arsonists. More and more insurance companies are extending their investigative and their deliberative actions to prosecute arsonists well beyond what was done in the previous decades.

Many insurance companies are also giving more intensive arson detection and training to their property claim adjusters. In addition, company underwriters, the people who decide whether to offer insurance to individuals and businesses, also receive training in recognizing information that could warn that an insurance applicant represents a big arson risk.

On May 19, 1994, almost 1 year ago, President Clinton signed a law, the Arson Prevention Act. Mr. Speaker,